

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 2 and 4. These sheets replace the original sheet including Figure 2 and the original sheet including Figure 4.

Figures 2 and 4 have been amended to correct a typographical error in the reference numbers and add an omitted reference number in order to be consistent with the specification.

Enclosed are four sheets of replacement formal drawings, Figures 1-4, for filing in the above-identified application.

Attachments: Annotated Sheets Showing Changes
Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-14, 16, and 17 are pending in the present application.

In the office action mailed April 4, 2006 (the "Office Action"), the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by applicant's admitted prior art (the "AAPA"). The Examiner rejected claims 5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the AAPA in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,623,534 to Desai *et al.* (the "Desai patent") and also rejected claims 9-13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the AAPA and common knowledge in the data processing art. Claims 14 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the AAPA in view of common knowledge in the data processing art and further in view of the Desai patent. Claims 6, 7, 15, and 16 were objected to by the Examiner, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Information disclosure statements were submitted on March 25, 2004 and March 31, 2006. Applicant requests the Examiner consider the references cited in each Form PTO-1449 of the Information Disclosure Statements and provide the attorney of record with a signed and initialed copy of each Form PTO-1449.

Figures 2 and 4 have been amended, as previously stated, to correct typographical errors to the reference numbers and to also add a reference number in order for Figures 2 and 4 to be consistent with the description found in the specification. No new matter has been amended by these amendments.

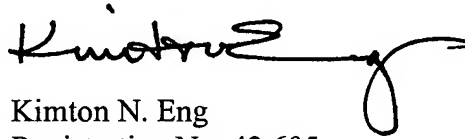
Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 6 and claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 15. Consequently, claims 1 and 9 are in condition for allowance. The amendments to claims 1 and 9 have been made to expedite the allowance of allowable subject matter. The amendments, however, should not be interpreted as reflecting Applicant's belief that the subject matter of the unamended claims is unpatentable, or that the Applicant has forfeited the subject matter of the unamended claims. Moreover, Applicant has not addressed the merits of the Examiner's rejection of the claims, or whether the Examiner's characterizations of the AAPA or of the cited references are accurate. Therefore, the presumption that Applicant has tacitly acknowledged the merit of the rejections or that the references cited by the Examiner are relevant to the patentability of the present invention should not be made.

The Examiner's rejection of claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a), and the rejection of claims 5, 8-14, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are now moot in light of the amendments to claims 1 and 9. That is, claims 2-5, 7, and 8, which depend from claim 1, and claims 10-14, 16, and 17, which depend from claim 9, are in condition for allowance based on their dependency from a respective allowable base claim.

All of the claims pending in the present application are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and a timely Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

Postcard

Fee Transmittal Sheet (+ copy)

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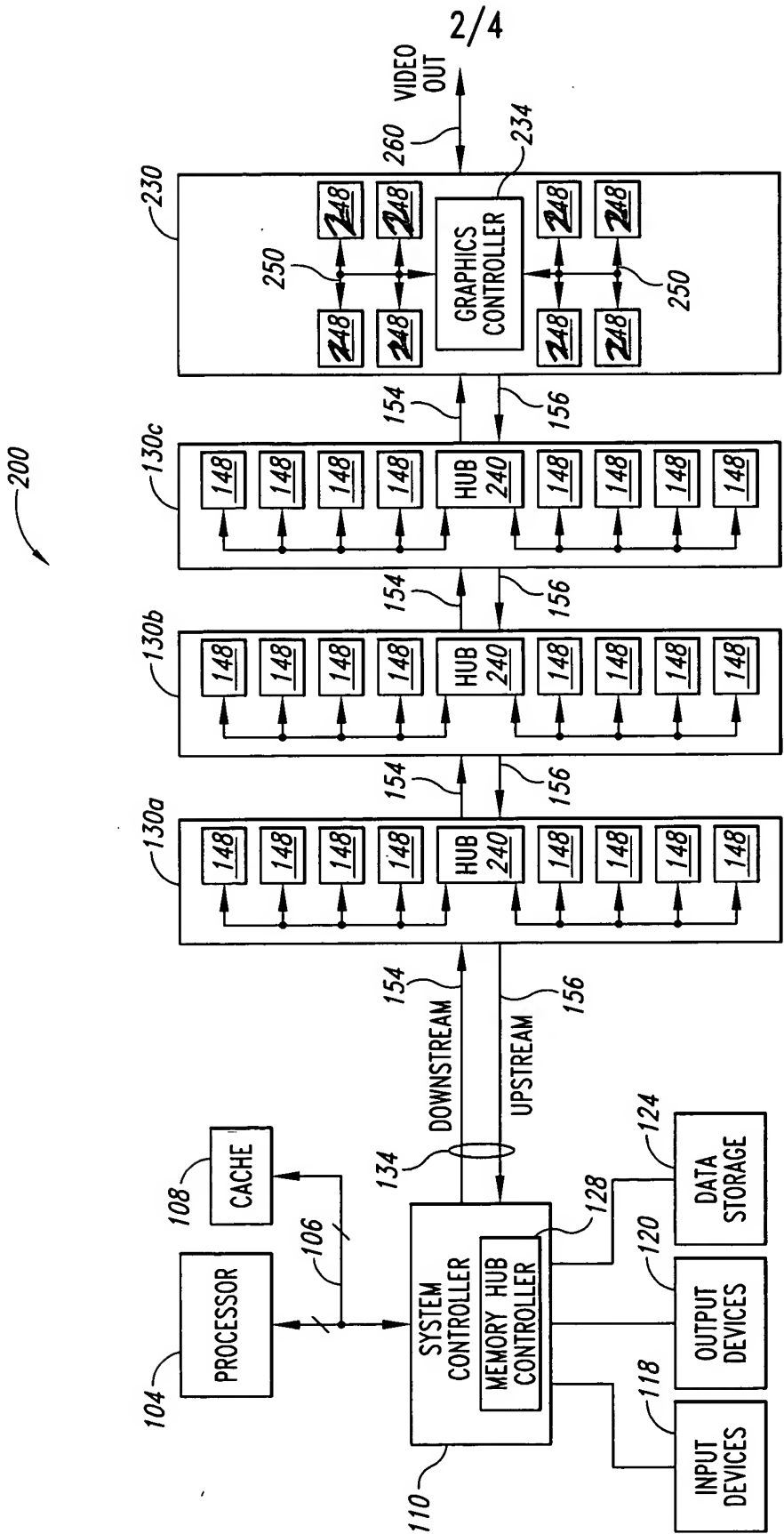


Fig. 2

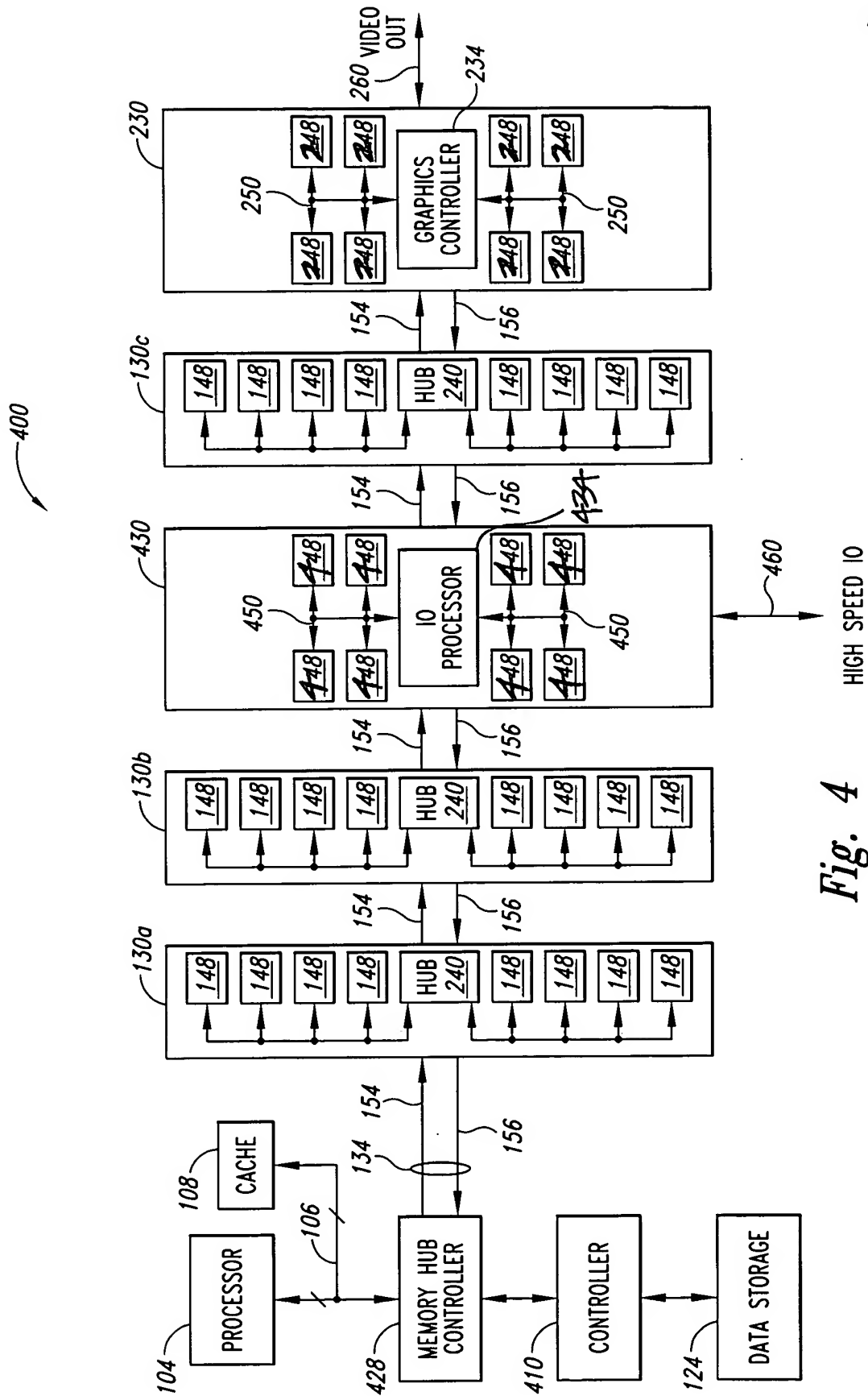


Fig. 4